



KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

NEWS RELEASE

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KENTUCKY NAEP SCIENCE SCORES OUTPACE NATIONAL AVERAGES

(FRANKFORT, Ky.) – The results of the 2009 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) in science show that Kentucky's 4th and 8th graders scored higher than the national averages, the Kentucky Department of Education announced today.

Scale scores for 4th and 8th graders in 2009 are significantly above the national average. The NAEP science grading scale ranges from 0 to 300.

KENTUCKY AND NATIONAL SCALE SCORES FOR NAEP SCIENCE

	4TH-GRADE SCALE SCORE		8TH-GRADE SCALE SCORE	
	KENTUCKY	NATION	KENTUCKY	NATION
2000	152	145	150	148
2005	158	149	153	147
2009	161	149	156	149

NOTE: The NAEP 2009 science results are based on new science frameworks, meaning that direct comparisons to prior years' overall scale scores are not recommended.

Disaggregated scale scores also show that, in all but one category, Kentucky students outperformed the nation. The only Kentucky group that did not have higher scores than the nation was 8th-grade white students, whose average scale score was 159, compared to the national average of 161 for the same group.

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NAEP SCIENCE SCALE SCORES BY FREE OR REDUCED-PRICE MEAL ELIGIBILITY

	4TH GRADE ELIGIBLE- KENTUCKY (NATION)	4TH GRADE NOT ELIGIBLE - KENTUCKY (NATION)	8TH GRADE ELIGIBLE- KENTUCKY (NATION)	8TH GRADE NOT ELIGIBLE - KENTUCKY (NATION)
2000	141 (126)	162 (158)	135 (127)	159 (158)
2005	151 (135)	166 (162)	145 (130)	159 (158)
2009	150 (134)	172 (163)	147 (133)	165 (161)

NAEP SCIENCE SCALE SCORES BY GENDER

	4TH GRADE MALE- KENTUCKY (NATION)	4TH GRADE FEMALE - KENTUCKY (NATION)	8TH GRADE MALE- KENTUCKY (NATION)	8TH GRADE FEMALE - KENTUCKY (NATION)
2000	154 (147)	150 (143)	153 (151)	146 (145)
2005	159 (151)	156 (147)	154 (149)	151 (145)
2009	161 (149)	160 (148)	159 (151)	154 (147)

NAEP SCIENCE SCALE SCORES BY RACE

	4TH GRADE WHITE- KENTUCKY (NATION)	4TH GRADE AFRICAN AMERICAN - KENTUCKY (NATION)	8TH GRADE WHITE- KENTUCKY (NATION)	8TH GRADE AFRICAN AMERICAN - KENTUCKY (NATION)
2000	154 (158)	129 (121)	152 (159)	125 (120)
2005	160 (161)	138 (128)	155 (159)	130 (123)
2009	164 (162)	135 (127)	159 (161)	137 (125)

2003 marked the first year NAEP was administered in all states, as mandated in the federal No Child Left Behind Act. States applying for Title I funds must indicate that they plan to participate in NAEP.

(more)

KEY FINDINGS FOR 2009 NAEP SCIENCE

Grade 4:

In 2009, the average science score for 4th-grade students in Kentucky was 161. This was higher than that of the nation's public schools (149).

In 2009, the percentage of students in Kentucky who performed at or above *Proficient* was 45 percent. This was greater than that for the nation's public schools (32 percent).

In 2009, the percentage of students in Kentucky who performed at or above *Basic* was 83 percent. This was greater than that for the nation's public schools (71 percent).

Grade 8:

In 2009, the average science score for 8th-grade students in Kentucky was 156. This was higher than that of the nation's public schools (149).

In 2009, the percentage of students in Kentucky who performed at or above *Proficient* was 34 percent. This was greater than that for the nation's public schools (29 percent).

In 2009, the percentage of students in Kentucky who performed at or above *Basic* was 71 percent. This was greater than that for the nation's public schools (62 percent).

NAEP is a project of the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), reporting on the academic achievement of elementary and secondary students in the United States. For more than 30 years, NAEP has been the country's only nationally representative and continuing survey of students' educational achievement. Because the national NAEP samples were not designed to support the reporting of state-level results, state NAEP samples were introduced in 1990 to provide participating states reliable data concerning the achievement of their students. The assessment is authorized by Congress, directed by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) and developed by Educational Testing Service of Princeton, New Jersey. Westat, Inc. of Rockville, Maryland, conducts sample selection and data collection.

NAEP protects the confidentiality of students, teachers and schools that participate by not reporting individual student, teacher, school or district data. NAEP provides results for major demographic groups, and states that meet NAEP reporting criteria are able to compare their results with both national results and the results of other states.

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